

yet another independence movement culminating in the restoration of their independence on August 30, 1991—the United States once again recognized Azerbaijan's independence on December 25, 1991. Since that Christmas Day over twenty-five years ago, the United States has supported the Republic of Azerbaijan's political independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders.

Mr. Speaker, Azerbaijan has not only been a friend to the United States in our times of need, most notably after September 11, 2001, when Azerbaijan gave us their unconditional assistance in bringing to justice those who carried out that cowardly attack, but also to our dear friend Israel. Azerbaijan and Israel recently celebrated twenty-five years of strong diplomatic relations. A relationship that has seen great growth in trade between the two nations and an ever increasing dedication to strengthening energy security in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincerest congratulations to the people of Azerbaijan as they celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the establishment of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

HONORING CAPTAIN THEODORE MORAN ON BEING NAMED OAK LAWN'S TOP FIREFIGHTER OF 2018

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain Theodore Moran of the Oak Lawn Fire Department for being named the village's Top Firefighter of 2018. The Oak Lawn Lion's Club bestows this award on a distinguished member of the department after being nominated by his or her peers and selected by a committee of fire department leaders.

Captain Moran has distinguished himself on numerous occasions, putting his life on the line for residents of Oak Lawn. In 2014, he was awarded the Fire Department's Medal of Honor Award and he continues to serve the community with distinction. Captain Moran is a superb example of the Oak Lawn Fire Department's motto "The Desire to Serve—The Courage to Act—The Ability to Perform."

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Captain Theodore Moran of the Oak Lawn Fire Department. I congratulate him on his accomplishments and thank him for his service.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF FATHER THOMAS C. EISWEIRTH

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and honor the retirement of Father Thomas C. Eisweirth as the pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Warren, Ohio.

Fr. Eisweirth was ordained a priest in 1974 by Bishop James Malone. He grew up at St. Mary Parish in Conneaut, Ohio in Ashtabula County. Over the course of his ministry, he

has served in five other parishes in the Diocese of Youngstown and in other parishes throughout the region including Trumbull, Portage, Columbiana, and Mahoning Counties. In 2010, Bishop George Murry S.J. appointed Fr. Eisweirth as pastor of this parish. Now, after forty-four years in active ministry, he is retiring.

Fr. Eisweirth always gives the most touching sermons. He has a way of connecting deep spiritual principles to our everyday lives. He truly embodies the mission of the parish to be a Blessed Sacrament for the people of Warren, Howland, and the entire world. He is an excellent priest and a phenomenal pastor. I will miss his immense wisdom, and I will keep him in my prayers. I wish him every blessing as he begins a new journey in retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, due to my mother's health, I was unable to vote on Roll Call votes 207, 208, and 209. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 207; YEA on Roll Call No. 208; and YEA on Roll Call No. 209.

HONORING VICTORIA "VICKI" TOUCHSTONE—REFUGEE EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Victoria "Vicki" Touchstone who has been named the 2018 National Wildlife Refuge System Employee of the Year.

Vicki Touchstone is a Refuge Planner for the San Diego National Wildlife Complex. The wildlife refuge protects endangered, threatened, migratory, and native species in their natural habitats during a growing urbanization of the coast. The refuge is located at the south end of San Diego and is surrounded by the cities of National City, Chula Vista, San Diego, Imperial Beach and Coronado which fall in my congressional district. In her role, she has developed important projects that have assisted and protected the wildlife populations that call the 51st Congressional District their home. In addition, she's created programs that have provided created greater public access for the community.

She has dedicated 16 years of her career to the San Diego National Wildlife Complex, completing multiple habitat restoration projects, drafted and finalized four major Comprehensive Corporations Plans for four different refuges and expanded public access.

I am told that at home she has created an oasis for turtle and tortoises that were rescued from the San Diego Turtle and Tortoise Society right in her backyard and takes her personal vacations at the annual California Trails and Greenways Conference. Her dedication to protecting wildlife in San Diego is astounding.

I would like to recognize Vicki Touchstone for her dedication to protect wildlife in my dis-

trict, congratulate her being recognized as the 2018 National Wildlife Refuge System Employee of the Year and for all the work she has done to preserving wildlife in the 51st District of California.

COMMENDING LOCAL 2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES MARINES AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE INAUGURAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

HON. BARBARA COMSTOCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mrs. COMSTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10 Fairfax, Virginia area high school seniors who plan to enlist in the United States Marines after graduation. These students have excelled in their academic and extracurricular activities, and I offer my sincere congratulations upon their high school graduation.

I commend these student leaders for their selflessness and courageous decision to serve their country as members of the United States Marines:

David Kha; Luke Kim; Ismael Shehat; Zachary Torres; Alex Cundith; Jasper Allison; Joshua Adkins; Ian Framstad; Robero Fuentes; Jenish KC.

These students will be honored by the Our Community Salutes Fairfax Chapter of Our Community Salutes at their Inaugural Military Enlistee Recognition Ceremony on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 in Sterling, VA.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking these young men and women and their families for their dedication to serving this great Nation. We owe them and the many Americans who have served and will serve a debt of gratitude.

SHARING STUDENTS' 'MARCH FOR OUR LIVES' REMARKS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, on May 9, I came to the Floor and spoke about the March For Our Lives on March 24 and the nine extraordinarily poised students in Morristown, New Jersey, who spoke at the rally there, which I attended. I include in the RECORD remarks by Benjamin Douglas. I hope my colleagues will read them and internalize the sense of fear in which our nation's students are living every day—and our responsibility as Members of Congress to do something to address this crisis of gun violence.

MARCH FOR OUR LIVES REMARKS BY BENJAMIN DOUGLAS

Mass shootings have been becoming a more and more common part of our society for years now. By the time I became aware of this, many ordinary people had already begun to work toward change. One such person was a close friend of mine who took part